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Agenda items 12 (a) and (c)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS; ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES AND MECHANISMS

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The Secretary-General has received a letter dated 17 June 1993 from the Coordinator of the International Year of the Family, in which the Coordinator suggested a specific comment relating to the draft final outcome of the World Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/98, annex II).

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PART II

Paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 12

A new paragraph should be inserted between paragraph 12 and paragraph 12 bis.

"The World Conference, recalling the relevant provisions concerning families contained in the international instruments on human rights, welcomes the proclamation by the General Assembly of 1994 as the International Year of the Family as a valuable opportunity to highlight the human rights dimensions of family issues. It reaffirms that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by the society and the State, so that it may fulfil its important societal functions, which have direct ramifications upon the enjoyment of human rights. While, as a general principle, family's right to self govern should be respected, it should not be allowed to become a shield for discrimination, domestic violence, abuse or neglect of children and the denial of equal rights of its members, particularly women. It is essential that the principles of human rights and democracy are learned, practised and respected in the family."